



# League of Women Voters Highland Park/Highwood

BULLETIN

Summer 2018

IN THIS ISSUE: *Click on Underlined Topics to See Full Articles*



## WHAT A YEAR!

- [The Year in Review](#)
- [LWVHP/HWD Annual Business Meeting](#)
- [LWVHP/HWD Celebratory Luncheon](#)
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- [The LWVUS Convention Rocked!](#)
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## CONTINUING FORWARD WITH OUR 90TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION ... BEGINNING OUR NEXT 90 YEARS!

**Programs and Events:** a year of topical and important planning

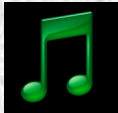
Other Local, State and National Articles:

[Voter Registration](#) , [Book Club](#), [Contact Info](#)

[Potpourri of info:](#) a mixture of local (city), state and national news

[LWVIL Action Item:](#) Read about LWVIL' s concerns regarding the citizenship question proposed on the 2020 Census

[Electoral College Presentation:](#) Reserve your seat, Aug 26th, at the Stevenson Center



Click on icons or underlined words below for

[CALENDAR](#) — [GREEN NOTES](#) — [WOMEN'S HISTORY](#)



**Don't miss our first LWVHP/HWD 2018—2019 meeting!**

**“TOWARD RENEWABLE ENERGY IN OUR HOMES AND COMMUNITIES”**

**[Click here](#) for INFORMATION on our August 28th meeting.**

# 2017–2018 League Review

Dear Leaguers,

This is the first bulletin since our Annual Meeting and Luncheon celebrating our 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary. I think about the founders of the Highland Park League sitting down to meet for the first time in Lincoln School library that day in March in 1928. They had received the right to vote eight years earlier but they were working hard on issues such as the right to serve on juries, child welfare, public health, birth control, and world peace. We may have come a long way in the past 90 years on those first four issues, but I'm afraid our daughters (and sons) and granddaughters (and grandsons) will still be dreaming of world peace 90 years from now.

Our concerns have focused on our own United States in recent years. We have seen voter suppression efforts target our communities. We have seen laws roll back voter access. We have seen politicians control power through illegal gerrymandering. Along with the National and State Leagues, our local league is committed to work on our core priorities in the service of the voters and protecting voter rights. At the LWVUS Convention held a few weeks ago at the Chicago Hilton (see article below), Marlene Senescu and I learned about how our League leaders are empowering voters and defending democracy across the country, from record-setting voter registration events to critical redistricting referenda. We are standing up to voter suppressors and fighting to expand voting rights for all eligible voters. Join us in the campaign to Make Democracy Work ®.

I want to thank everyone for what they have done for League in the past year.

## Highlights of Last Year's (2017-2018) Events:

- Opening meeting on October 3, 2017 at Lakeside Congregation featuring guest speaker attorney Ami Gandhi, Director of Voting Rights and Civic Empowerment at the Chicago Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights, speaking on "Protecting the Right to Vote: Questions for a New Era."
- October 17<sup>th</sup>- the Leagues of Highland Park/Highwood and Deerfield participated in an Advocacy Resource Fair event sponsored by Common Cause Northern Illinois and Christ United Church on "The State of Our Democracy"
- November 1 - planning and wine get-together at the home of Elaine and Jerry Adler
- Dec 7 - Holiday party at the home of Laurie Reinstein. The City Managers of Highland Park and Highwood discussed community related challenges and concerns
- February 18 - Candidates forum: Republican Candidates for the 10th District Congressional Primary and Democratic Candidates for the Lake County Clerk Primary
- March 11 – Women's History Month Luncheon at the Wilmette Golf Club (with other north suburban leagues) "This is What Activism Looks Like" presented by Ellen Schumer, from Community Organizing and Family Issues (COFI)

## 2017–2018 League Review continued

- March 21 – Women in the Military Program
- Saturday, May 19, 2018 - Annual Business Meeting , Luncheon and Program at Bella Via featuring the Hon. Barbara Flynn Currie, First Woman Majority Leader of the Illinois House of Representatives, speaking on her life in politics
- 221 new voters were registered at voter registration events in September, April, and May
- The Ruth Fell Wander Community Arts Wall at the First Bank of Highland Park showcased our League’s 90 year history with many of the accomplishments of our League gathered from our archives from April 2 to April 26
- The Highland Park Library displayed artifacts from our 90 year history in the main reading room, April 26 to June 26
- Our new book club, organized by Barbara Kronish, discussed “Evicted” by Matthew Desmond and “Capital Dames” on April 25 and June 27, respectively, in the Brenner Room at the HP Library

As we focus on making democracy work, we need your help expanding League membership and participating in the many exciting programs and events we are planning for the coming year.. Please support League in any way you can: visit our website and Facebook pages, renew your membership, bring friends and neighbors to League events, register voters, help at candidates meetings, join a committee, write press releases.

Enjoy the rest of summer. We hope to see you soon.

Judy Miller for the Leadership Team



# 2017-2018 Photos



# Annual Meeting Summary

## HIGHLIGHTS OF THE 90TH ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING OF THE HIGHLAND PARK/HIGHWOOD LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS, MAY 19, 2018

The 90th Annual Meeting of the League of Women Voters of Highland Park/Highwood (celebrating 90 years) took place on May 19, at Bella Via Restaurant. Judy Miller convened the meeting. . Barbara Lippai presented the Nominating Committee's (Barbara Lippai, Barbara Kronish and Ginny Schulte) report, which included a recommendation to add a Convener to the Leadership Team, Judy Miller. Rose Feder is leaving the Leadership Team after many years of service. Ginger Seff will continue as Treasurer (off Leadership Team.) Elaine Adler will be in charge of Voter Service, which will need more volunteers since it is an election year. Marlene Senescu will handle membership. Nancy Goldberg will be in charge of Communications. Carole Kohn will do programs, with the assistance of the leadership team. The current members of the Nominating Committee will serve again.

Other recommendations of the committee were to make membership a priority, focus on League issue oriented programs, with close communication between program and membership committees. The committee's report was approved by a voice vote.

The budget for 2017-2018 was amended to add an additional \$500 to expenses in order to reimburse the full registration fee for two members who are attending the National Convention in Chicago this June. The budget, as amended, was passed by a voice vote.

It was suggested that \$1,600 (\$600 from reserves and \$1,000 from increased fundraising) be added to the 2018-2019 budget to reimburse members for registration and hotel rooms at the state convention which will be held downstate this year. It was noted that it was an investment in our League to attend conventions and learn ways to increase membership and enhance programs. With that one change, the budget was adopted.

Local positions were reviewed and the following related actions were approved as Local Program Activity for this new League year:

- The city planning position is to be reviewed to take into consideration the use of bikes and other non-motorized transportation and impact on congestion when planning roads.
- An update to the Ravinia Festival position to provide a program about costs of police, security and transportation to understand the costs and benefits to the city was passed.
- The position on township government was recommended for updated language specifically related to access to services. Committee needed.
- The proposal for the Environmental Preservation position, to provide information (in the form of educational meetings) about renewable energy use which could impact the energy mix and choice of a provider in any municipal aggregation contract, was approved by a voice vote.
- The position on Fort Sheridan contains some outdated language and will be considered for review by a committee next year.

Our guest speaker for the afternoon luncheon was the Hon. Barbara Flynn Currie, Majority Leader of the Illinois House of Representatives who spoke about her life in politics. Thank you to Barb Kronish and Laurie Marston for providing the meeting notes.

Thanks to Elaine Adler and the entire 2017-18 leadership team for planning the morning meeting.

# ANNUAL LUNCHEON: HATS OFF TO OUR FOUNDERS!

On Saturday afternoon May 19<sup>th</sup>, a lively group enjoyed the gala celebration honoring the 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of our League. Leadership Team members were introduced and saluted our founders by wearing chapeaux reminiscent of the era of our establishment on Friday, March 30<sup>th</sup>, 1928, at Lincoln School. Red, white and blue balloons and colorful table décor augmented the festivities at Bella Via Restaurant.

We welcomed remarks and tributes. Mayor Nancy Rotering presented the City's laudatory Proclamation and shared her League experiences. Councilmen Alyssa Knobel and Kim Stone related their League histories and the continued relevance and importance of League. Margie Ettliger spoke as a longtime member and as a guardian of our environment.

We recognized several past Presidents for their valuable contributions: Elaine Adler; Gail Feiger Brown; Rose Feder; Linda Kellough; Barbara Kronish; Joyce Okeefe; Betsy Lassar; Barb Lippai; Ginny Schulte.

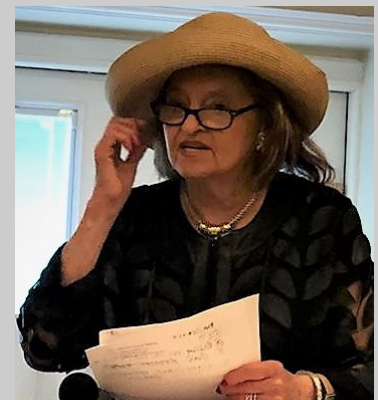
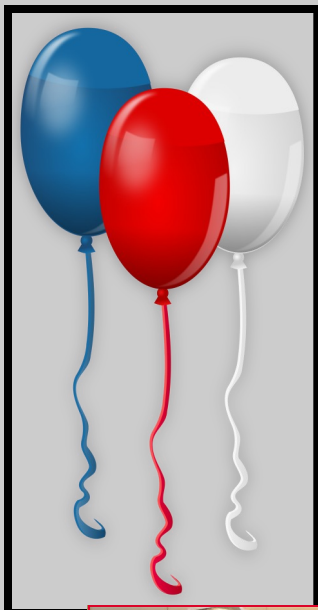
Highland Park Library Archivist Nancy Webster shared an excellent article she wrote for the library newsletter. Her details included original documents of significant events, such as the handwritten minutes of our local League's formal organization, which was the goal of speaker Emily Taft Douglas; the presentation in 1934 at Elm Place School by Labor Secretary Frances Perkins on affordable housing, attended by 1000 people; and League success in the establishment of the City Manager form of government in Highland Park.

Dan Pierce, longtime leaguer, former Highland Park Mayor, former Illinois State Representative and President of the Northshore Water Reclamation District, introduced our keynote speaker, the Honorable Barbara Flynn Currie, the first woman Majority Leader of the Illinois House of Representatives. Entitled "My Life in Illinois Politics," the witty talk focused on the trailblazing career that included her first political success in 1978 representing the 25<sup>th</sup> District, her legislative accomplishments and the whirlwind, complex lifestyle as politico, graduate student, wife, mother and leaguer.

Hats off to our founders and to our 90<sup>th</sup> birthday! Our League is working on issues and adding to our accomplishments, as we continue to make a difference in our lives and in the community.

**Elaine Adler for the Leadership Team**

# ANNUAL LUNCHEON: PHOTOS



**90TH ANNUAL MEETING, LUNCHEON  
AND PROGRAM OF THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS  
OF HIGHLAND PARK/HIGHWOOD**

**Saturday, May 19, 2018**

**9:45 a.m. Annual Business Meeting**  
**12:00 noon Luncheon and Program**

**Luncheon Speaker:**  
**Hon. Barbara Flynn Currie**  
First Woman Majority Leader of the Illinois House of Representatives




# HURRAH FOR US ON JULY 4TH

## HP PARADE THEME HONORS LWVHP/HWD ... "YOUR VOTE COUNTS!"

It was a spectacular moment. With flags waving and exclamations of "Your Vote Counts," we celebrated our 90<sup>th</sup> as the Grand Marshals of the July 4<sup>th</sup> Parade.

Attired in special League T-shirts and red, white or blue fascinators, we honored the anniversaries of our League and Independence Day.

Walkers with signs and riders, along with friends, family and neighbors, were part of the procession which was anchored by Leaguers Elaine Adler, Larry Feder, Rose Feder, Alan Goldberg, Nancy Goldberg, Barbara Kronish, Judy Miller, Barbara O'Connell and Marlene Senescu.

The following was the official Announcement of our League as we passed the Parade Viewing Stand.

*"This year's Parade Grand Marshal is the League of Women Voters of Highland Park/Highwood in recognition of its 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary and the theme "Your Vote Counts." The League, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages the informed and active participation of citizens in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy. The League invites women—and men—to join in this mission.*

*Representing the League and honored to be Grand Marshals are its Leadership Team—Elaine Adler, Nancy Goldberg, Carole Kohn, Judy Miller and Marlene Senescu. And their driver Robert Shrigo in his Classic '61 Dodge Convertible.*

*We thank the Highland Park/Highwood League for their continual focus on enhancing citizen participation in government decisions and in the electoral process. Attend their forthcoming Candidate Forums. Your Vote Counts!"*

Celebrating our League's history on July 4<sup>th</sup> was an exhilarating experience. As we continue to move forward, we invite you to participate in additional timely, informative and interesting events.

Elaine Adler for the Leadership Team







## ***BEGINNING OUR NEXT 90 YEARS PROGRAMS AND EVENTS FOR 2018–2019***

### **We Are Planning A Year of Topical and Important Programming**

By Program Co-Chairs Carole Kohn and Barb Lippai

League is in the process of planning a yearlong series of stimulating, creative and simply wonderful programs for our members and prospective members! The Program Committee has put together local meeting program items approved at the Annual Meeting with recommendations made by the Program committee. The Program Committee recommended events of significant interest to a broader audience with the goal of raising awareness of League's actionable issues, reflecting our wider view of issues at the forefront of current affairs.

Local Programs approved at the Annual Meeting, which may lead to action:

1. Based on our local Transportation Position – a presentation of Highland Park's Bike/Walk 2030 Plan. Chair: Peg Laemle
2. Based on our local Ravinia Festival Position – a presentation of services provided to the Festival, possibly including cost/benefits. Chairs: Barbara Kronish and Ginny Schulte
3. Program on renewable energy in our homes and our communities. Speakers include a City representative and activists on this issue. Chair: Andy Amend. (We hope to launch our series of programs early this year by having this program at the end of August.)

The Program Committee has recommended the following, in order of perceived interest. Contact Carole Kohn ([carolekohn@aol.com](mailto:carolekohn@aol.com)) or Barb Lippai ([bglippai@gmail.com](mailto:bglippai@gmail.com)) to volunteer.

1. *VOTING RIGHTS (BOTH A US AND STATE PRIORITY): Focused on protecting the integrity of the vote as the Opening Meeting program.*
2. *IMMIGRATION (STATE PRIORITY): Focused on general topic in its ever-evolving status as the Annual Meeting program*
3. *STATE FISCAL POLICY REFORM (STATE PRIORITY): A program prior to the opening of the legislative session.*
4. *CIVIC EDUCATION: Where do we stand on civics education/knowledge in our community, our state and our country. Contacts include: the local school boards, Mikva Challenge, college education departments. Not time sensitive. Chair needed.*

We are excited to present consistent programming for our membership and our prospective members!



**August 28, 2018**

**7:00 — 9:00 pm**

**Highland Park Police Station Training Room  
1677 Old Deerfield Road, Highland Park**

Featuring a Panel discussion on the reduction of reliance on fossil fuels – part of the League’s position on *Mitigation of Climate Warming*. The panel will include coordinators of the Chicago Climate Group, Catherine Buntin and Jack Kelly. They are collaborating with the [350.org](http://350.org) Fossil Free Fast Campaign locally and will discuss their work in Skokie and Wilmette. Other panel members will be a representative of the City of Highland Park and possibly Highwood.

Catherine and Jack will start off with a video clip of the importance of a rapid transition from fossil fuels to renewable energy sources in every community across the states. The panel will be rounded off by a presentation of what’s happening here in Highland Park and the surrounding municipalities to reduce reliance on fossil fuels.



## VOTER REGISTRATION EVENTS

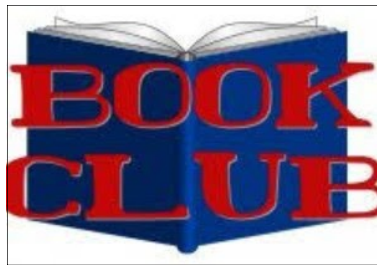
The LWVHP/HW held an event on Senior Checkout Day (May 21, 2018) at Highland Park High School. Gail Brown, Nancy Goldberg, Betsy Lassar, Barbara Mazur, Rheta Pickard, Marlene Senescu and Debby Zirin registered 30 new voters, bringing the total for the year to 221.

This summer, LWVHP/HWD offered voter registration in Sunset Park on the Fourth of July. Our registrars also participated at voter registration events at the Disabilities Expo in Schaumburg and the Highwood Evening Gourmet Market.



Organized and led by Barb Kronish, our Book Club will have its 3rd review Wed, July 25th in the Brenner Room at HP Library from 1:00 to 2:30, when we discuss the very timely book,

*The Retreat of Western Liberalism* by Edward Luce.



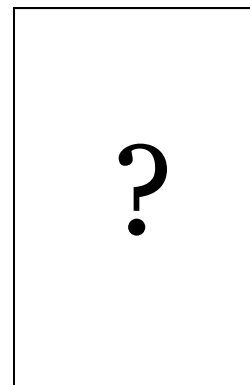
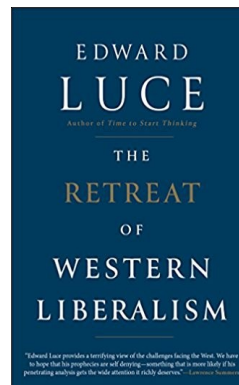
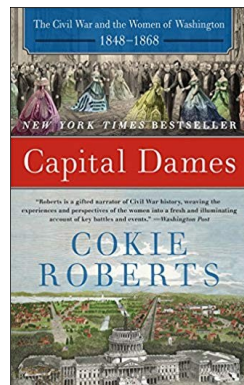
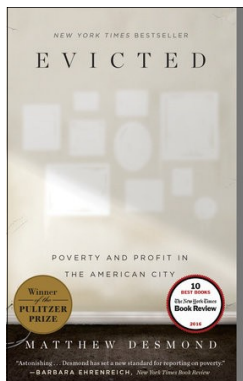
So far we have reviewed:

*Evicted* by Matthew Desmond

*Capital Dames* by Cokie Roberts

It's a great group, which is open to both League members and non-members.

Join us , Bring a friend and Bring book title recommendations!



## COMMUNICATIONS TEAM UPDATE:

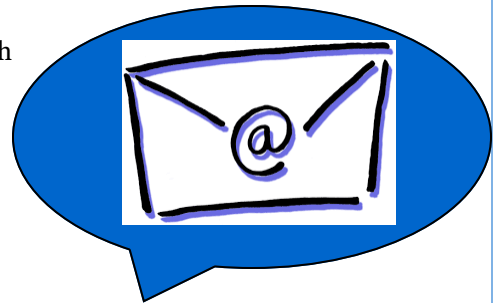
The Communications Team responsibilities include delivery of timely information to our members and community about LWVHP/HWD programs and activities.

Our goals for 2018-2019 include:

- Quick turn-around emails through mailchimp to, depending on relevance, a members email list and interested party email list.
- Greater community awareness of our League through wider Facebook \*organic reach. Possibly branch out to twitter.
- Research and integration of a new website. We currently use a California League’s website which works, but seems lackluster. We’ve been connecting with other local Leagues and researching alternatives. The hits to our current website are highly impressive when a Voters Guide is posted during a Consolidated Election cycle. Our goal is to have a more up-to-the-minute (at least more timely) website, hopefully generating more interest in our League.
- 4 to 5 bulletins for the League Year.
- Assistance for PR campaigns created for League Programs and Events with posters, invitations and electronic notifications (emails, FB, evites, etc...)
- Publication of a Voter Guide for the Spring 2019 Consolidated Election.

Be a part of our Communications Team, we make things happen!

Nancy Goldberg [jamn148@gmail.com](mailto:jamn148@gmail.com).



\*Organic reach refers to how many people you can reach for free on Facebook by posting to your Page

## LWV HIGHLAND PARK/HIGHWOOD LEADERSHIP TEAM

### Leadership Team 2018—2019:

Elaine Adler  
 Nancy Goldberg  
 Carole Kohn  
 Judy Miller  
 Marlene Senescu

**Contingency Nominating Committee 2019:** Barbara Kronish, Barbara Lippai, and Ginny Schulte

**Treasurer:** Ginger Seff



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# LWV: A POTPOURRI OF LOCAL, STATE AND NATIONAL

**MEMBERS**

## LWVHP/HWD

Our League welcomes new (or returning) members:

Renee Coleman, Esther Hedberg, Linda Kirschbaum, Bonnie Mervis,  
Janet Krehbiel Pieracci and Cheryl Schulz

**Invite your friends to our events this year!**

## CITY OF HIGHLAND PARK CHANGES LANDMARKING RULES

On May 14, 2018, the City Council amended the City Code to prohibit the **landmarking** of property or structures without the consent of the owner. This action followed a period of about one year and three months during which there were three consecutive moratoria on review and processing of such involuntary **landmarking**, while the Council studied and reviewed the then-current criteria and procedures.

## LWVIL ERA—IT PASSED!

The Illinois House voted to ratify the Equal Rights Amendment!  
It passed 72-45 on Wednesday, May 30, 2018.

Illinois has officially ratified the ERA! #37!  
**ONLY ONE MORE STATE TO GO!!**



Here is the link to the House of Representatives Roll Call Vote for ERA on May 30:

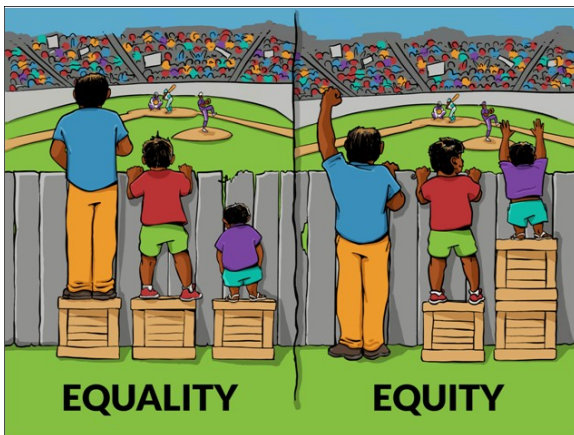
<https://tinyurl.com/y9rbd6b6> \*Copied from the LWV Wilmette website

## LWVUS ON EQUALITY AND EQUITY

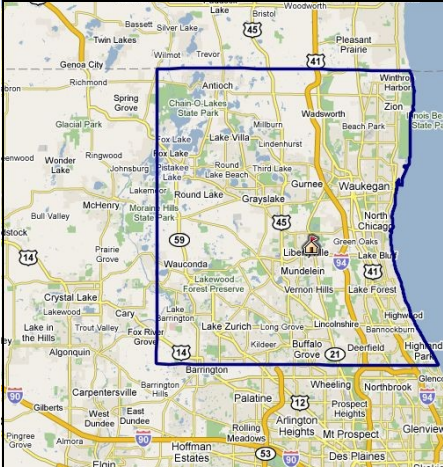
A powerful takeaway from the LWVUS Convention

Difference between equality and equity whereas “diversity” is the presence of difference.

A training session, “Using Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Lens to Strengthen Social Impact and Collaboration” was offered to all Convention delegates. The skills learned can be immediately applied to the leadership and culture across LWV and to work at all levels, e.g. state/local elections and organization-building.



# LWV OF LAKE COUNTY



## Annual Meeting highlights: League of Women Voters of Lake County

The delegates voted to retain all current positions and voted to focus on:

- Environmental issues
- Criminal justice
- Redistricting
- Transportation and land use
- Watershed management

The delegates also are going to watch secondary issues and act if appropriate

- Consolidated government
- Equality of opportunity
- Gun control and violence prevention
- Immigration

\* Representatives were welcomed from the newly created LWV of Northwest Lake County

# LWV of Lake County Annual Meeting and Luncheon

## LWV OF ILLINOIS

The following was received from League of Women Voters of Illinois—July 9, 2018

### **ACTION NEEDED:**

**Submit a public comment by August 7** opposing the addition of a citizenship question on the 2020 Census.

The Census Bureau is accepting public comments on its decision to add a citizenship question to the 2020 Census. The League of Women Voters opposes such a question, which will result in an unfair and inaccurate Census that fails to equitably represent the U.S. population. See more below under "Why It Matters."

To submit your comment before the August 7 deadline, visit <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2018/06/08/2018-12365/proposed-information-collection-comment-request-2020-census>.

### **WHY IT MATTERS:**

US Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross recently announced that there will be a citizenship question on the 2020 Census. The League of Women Voters vehemently opposes this measure, claiming that it will result in an undercount of those living in the United States and will jeopardize fair redistricting and the determination of the allocation of resources. Additionally, the call for a citizenship question is anti-immigrant in nature and will further instill fear, preventing immigrants from participating fully in the count.

The US Census, mandated by the Constitution, takes place every 10 years and counts every person living in the United States. The information it collects is used for redistricting and to allocate federal funds to local communities. A citizenship question has not been asked since 1950.

Some of the reasons you may offer in opposing a citizenship question on the 2020 Census:

- **Undermines an accurate count:** Including a question about citizenship in the 2020 Census will damage the chances for an accurate count of our country's population.
- **Change is a betrayal:** This change to the way we count the number of people living in the United States is a betrayal of the idea that in America, every person counts.
- **Misleading motive for the change:** This decision isn't about improving demographic data on citizenship to fulfill the Voting Rights Act. It's designed to frighten immigrants-citizens and non-citizens alike— so they won't participate in the Census. It's a blatant political maneuver meant to disenfranchise these groups and deny them equal representation.
- **Undermines the rights of eligible voters and threatens democracy:** Including this question on the Census undermines the rights of eligible voters and threatens a process vital to our democracy.
- **Jeopardizes the allocation of important resources:** A fair and accurate Census is essential to the way the federal government allocates resources for infrastructure, education and transportation. Census data is critical when determining resources for fire, water and trash collection.
- **The Constitution mandates an accurate count of ALL people:** The United States Constitution mandates an accurate count of all people living in the United States—not all citizens. Non-citizens are an integral part of our economy and need to be included in the 2020 Census to paint a complete picture of our great country.

You can read LWVUS President Chris Carson's full response to the citizenship question here: <https://www.lwv.org/newsroom/press-releases/census-citizenship-question-will-result-inaccurate-count>.

## LWV OF ILLINOIS

### FIND OUT MORE ABOUT THE ELECTORAL COLLEGE

#### LWVIL Electoral College Committee Presentation

### Why We Should Abolish the Electoral College: What to Do and How to Do It



The Electoral College is a puzzling system that often has people scratching their heads about how it works and why we use it.

Join us for a brief history of the Electoral College, a discussion of its impact on our democracy, and a plan for change.

The program will be presented by Karen Glennemeier of the League of Women Voters of Wilmette.

**Sunday, August 26<sup>th</sup>, 2:00 p.m. \$15**  
**Stevenson Center on Democracy**  
**25200 N St. Mary's Rd, Mettawa, IL 60048**





## LWVUS CONVENTION JUNE 28 – JULY 1

The biennial convention of the League of Women Voters of the United States took place at the Chicago Hilton on Thursday, June 28 through Sunday, July 1. Attending were Marlene Senescu and myself and over 1000 Leaguers from the District of Columbia and every state in the union except one (one of the Dakotas). The temperatures in Chicago those days reached 94 and 95, shocking the Alaska delegates and causing plain discomfort to everyone else who stepped outside. Every minute from 7:30 AM to 10 PM was scheduled: morning and evening caucuses, information sessions, leadership workshops, midmorning and afternoon training, guest speakers, networking, and plenary sessions. Nancy Goldberg attended as a volunteer on Thursday, registering delegates, including the most distant, a young man from LWV Anchorage, Alaska.



Illinois Delegation to the LWVUS Convention

Our first pre-convention day kicked off with an advocacy and organizing training. Hundreds of League attendees participated in a lively, candid, and productive conversation about how we can best mobilize and organize for success in this challenging new environment. This Wellstone Action training focused on how to use mobilizing tools for organizing in communities. Leaders broke into groups discussing how to engage new volunteers and build upon existing volunteer networks. Leaders shared ways that different Leagues organize voter registration campaigns and advocacy campaigns as a part of the Making Democracy Work® Campaign.

Thursday evening we heard about League's fight against racial and partisan gerrymandering and its efforts to make sure the voters elect politicians who truly represent their interests, rather than elected officials picking their constituents. The event was [A Conversation on Redistricting](#) with Ruth Greenwood and Nick Stephanopoulos. Greenwood served on the legal team for the plaintiffs in the United States Supreme Court case *Gill v. Whitford* which the Court decided in June. Stephanopoulos created the Efficiency Gap Theory, which is the standard the court considered in the *Gill v. Whitford* case. Both are co-council for the League of Women Voters of North Carolina in their partisan gerrymandering case, *LWV v. Rucho*.

After the presentation of Colors by local girl scout troops, Toni Preckwinkle, president of the Cook County Board of Commissioners, welcomed the League to Chicago, speaking about the "precarious time in our nation's history". She urged leaders to take action in this moment, "*Democracy is both the best and most fragile form of government because it requires an active, informed, and engaged citizenry.*"

"We all want to see a League of Women Voters that's suited to meet 21st-century demands, that works hard to court a new generation of leaders and activists, that looks like the people and communities for whom we so fervently advocate," said **Chris Carson, LWVUS president** in her opening remarks to the Convention delegates and attendees.

This subject was addressed many more times during the convention. To accomplish our core mission to empower voters and defend democracy, the League must embrace diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI). DEI was the topic of a panel discussion where we were enjoined to do more listening and outreach to people of different backgrounds by Dr. Alfreda Brown, vice President for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion at Kent State University; Sarah Bury, Interim Vice President, LWV Lake Michigan; and Cecile Scoon, First Vice President, LWV Florida.

# LWVUS CONVENTION *continued*

Over the four-day Convention, delegates held caucuses, debated and voted on the National Program for 2018-2020. Although Marlene and I worked hard to support the Deerfield's and State of Illinois's resolution to make the abolition of the Electoral College a program focus, that motion eventually failed. Delegates voted to add advocating for the National Popular Vote Compact to the Campaign for Making Democracy Work® under improving Elections. Delegates also voted for LWVUS to prioritize advocating for the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) to be added to the U.S. Constitution. The Campaign for Making Democracy Work® includes ensuring a free, fair, and accessible electoral system for all eligible voters by focusing on Voting Rights, Improving Elections, and advocacy for the National Popular Vote Compact, Campaign Finance/Money in Politics, and Redistricting.

The final night of Convention, attendees heard from Elaine Weiss, author of the *Women's Hour*, at a final banquet. Hearing Elaine Weiss recount the final push for women's suffrage in this country reminded us how important the League of Women Voters is to this day. The number of women in elected offices does not reflect the demographic makeup of women in our communities. This is an important midterm election year and the League is committed to making sure voters have the resources they need to participate in November.

It was an exhilarating and intense four days. We listened to and connected with League leaders from all over the country who are making a difference in their community. We took away some great ideas from other leagues. ***We are all pumped up and ready to go!***

Judy Miller





## ENVIRONMENT AND WOMEN'S HISTORY

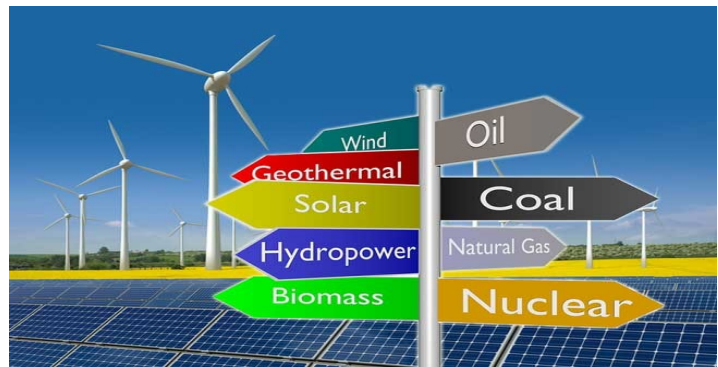


### GREEN NOTES:

Safe to say we all accept that climate change is happening, but the necessary responses both locally and globally are varied and complicated. What can each of us do about such a big problem? Come to the Highland Park Police Station on August 28th at 7:00 P.M. to view a short video and hear an informed panel give a current picture of some solutions. The panel will include two speakers from the Climate Group of CAPA, and at least one representative from the city of Highland Park. And if you haven't heard the phrase, "**Fossil Free Fast**," you will leave the event with a good understanding of a snowballing campaign.

For more information see article on page 10, "[TOWARD RENEWABLE ENERGY IN OUR HOMES AND COMMUNITIES](#)".

A Calendar entry will be found on page 20.



### SUFFRAGE

August 28, 1917



"According to the Library of Congress' American Memory archives, Wilson rode out of the White House gates on the morning of **August 28** with his wife at his side and tipped his hat toward the protestors as usual. By this time, though, the suffragists had become increasingly disruptive and brandished anti-World War I slogans on their placards in addition to pleas for the vote and later that day the protestors and outraged bystanders who supported the war clashed. Many of the women were arrested and thrown in jail. Some of the jailed suffragists went on a hunger strike and were force-fed by their captors. Wilson, appalled by the hunger strikes and worried about negative publicity for his administration, finally agreed to a suffrage amendment in January 1918. Two years later, toward the end of Wilson's second presidential term, Congress passed the [19th Amendment](#), officially giving women the right to vote. (HISTORY Channel)



# League of Women Voters Highland Park/Highwood

## CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

### LWV HP/HWD League Book Club

When **July 25 1:00—2:30 pm**  
 Where HP Library, Brenner Room  
 Description The Retreat of Western Liberalism, by Edward Luce  
 \* Note—Book club will usually meet on the the 4th Wednesday of each month



### LWVIL Electoral College Committee

When **August 26th 2:00 pm**  
 Where Stevenson Center on Democracy,  
 25200 N St. Mary’s Rd, Mettawa  
 Description Presentation on the history of the Electoral College  
 See page 15 for details



### LWV HP/HWD FIRST MEETING—ENVIRONMENT

When **August 28th 7:00—9:00 pm**  
 Where Highland Park Police Station Training Room  
 1677 Old Deerfield Road, Highland Park  
 Description Toward Renewable Energy in our Homes and Communities  
 See page 10 for details



### National Voter Registration Day

When **September 25th**  
 Where Nationwide  
 Description Since 2012 National Voter Registration Day is a national holiday celebrating our democracy. Volunteers and organizations from all over the country will “hit the streets” in a single day of coordinated field, technology and media efforts.

